



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

No. 181

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 15, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

I RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I love my country. I rise because I care about people. And because I love my country and care about people, I rise on behalf of those living and deceased who have suffered grave injustices associated with hate.

I rise on behalf of those who have suffered the injustices associated with sexism, racism, nativism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia.

I rise on behalf of the slave mother who had her baby torn away from her at the auction block. I rise on behalf of the mother at the border of the United States of America who had her baby taken from her as her baby cried to be in her mother's arms.

I rise on behalf of the many who have been persecuted for religious beliefs, those who have suffered religious persecution.

I rise on behalf of the women who have been denied opportunities because of their gender. I rise on behalf of the LGBTQ persons who have suffered simply because of being who they are.

Mr. Speaker, I rise and I stand in the well of the Congress of the United States of America against bigotry and hatred. I rise and stand against the bigotry emanating from the Presidency, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to allow it to be reduced to his being a jerk. I refuse to allow it to be reduced to something simply political. Mr. Speaker, bigotry in our country has hurt too many for too long.

Mr. Speaker, I let others do what they may. I am not angry with anyone, Mr. Speaker. Let them do what they may. But it is in my DNA to oppose this bigotry, and I rise and I stand against it.

I will not let the Record show that when I was elected to Congress, I did not do something about the circumstance that is changing the culture in this country: persons running for office claiming that they somehow can say that it is okay to go to a hanging; persons running for office talking about monkey business, knowing how that relates to those of African ancestry.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to accept it. I rise to take a stand for the many who have suffered from bigotry and hatred emanating from the Presidency.

I rise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from en-

gaging in personalities toward the President.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this is National Apprenticeship Week and a good time to celebrate the renewed attention that apprenticeships have received from the Committee on Education and the Workforce and this administration.

Apprenticeships are a centuries-old workforce development tool referenced as far back as the Bible. Nothing can prepare a student quite like the on-the-job experience, and apprenticeships are a tried and true method of preparing students to enter the workforce with the skills they need to succeed.

We have a national skills gap with more than 7 million unfilled jobs in the country, and, for the seventh month running, the number of job openings has exceeded job seekers nationwide.

A recent survey of U.S. employers showed that nearly half of all job creators struggle to hire employees with the right skills for the job, and, for the sixth year running, skilled trade jobs continue to be the hardest positions to fill all over the world.

Apprenticeships are a wonderful solution to closing the skills gap and strengthening the workforce. We at the Committee on Education and the Workforce recognize this, and we have worked hard this Congress to make skills-based education a viable and valuable path for American workers.

Over the course of the 115th Congress, we have made historic progress strengthening our workforce development efforts. For the first time, the committee reported postsecondary reform legislation that promotes apprenticeships as key postsecondary education opportunities.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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